

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1778

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Telecom Ranking

Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been ranked 129th in the telecom ranking by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), notwithstanding it being the second largest global network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make the parameters in sync with the requirement of international standards and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has also fixed certain guidelines in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other measures being taken by the Government for reforms in the Indian Telecom Sector?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) As per 2013 global ranking, published in 2014, India ranked 129th in ICT Development Index. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) measures ICTs penetration globally through a composite index called 'ICT Development Index (IDI)'. The index takes three aspects into consideration namely, ICT Penetration, ICT Use and ICT skillset using eleven (11) parameters as below.

Sl. No. Item Sub category

1 Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants

Access

2 Mobile cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

3 International Internet bandwidth (bit/s) per Internet user

4 Percentage of households with a computer

5 Percentage of households with Internet access at home

6 Percentage of Internet users per 100 inhabitants

Use

7 Fixed broadband (BB) Internet 100 subscribers per 100 inhabitants

8 Mobile broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants

9 Adult literacy rate

Skills

10 Secondary gross enrolment ratio

11 Tertiary gross enrolment ratio

This index is developed through consultative process by the 'Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development', an international, multi-stakeholder initiative, in which India as a member of ITU also participates.

(e) Several measures are being taken for holistic development of telecommunication & ICTs in penetration and use for the benefit of people. The Digital India is an umbrella program driving several initiatives such as, among others, BharatNet (Broadband highways to 250,000 panchayats), Public Internet Access Program, ICT skill development, eKranti (Electronic delivery of services). Apart from successful spectrum auctions in 2015 by making more spectrum available for development of mobile services, the Government has also issued guidelines for spectrum sharing and spectrum trading recently.

As part of 'Make in India' initiative in Telecom Sector, the Government has taken the following measures:

• Imposition of basic customs duty of 10% on certain imported telecom products to provide a level playing field for domestic manufacturers, and to give a fillip to domestic telecom electronic manufacturing.

• Correction of inverted duty structures.

Telecommunication Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI), an industry led body is set up with an objective to develop, promote and maintain standardized solutions for India-specific requirements.